

1944.

## BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present the ANNUAL REPORT on the Health of the district for the Year ended December 31st, 1944.

*Public Health Officers of the Authority:—*

Medical Officer of Health : L. E. Dickson, M.D. (part time)

Public Analyst : Mr. H. Lowe, Chester.

Sanitary Inspector : Mr. D. C. Younger, M.R.S.I.

### Sec. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101,040
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population (mid-year, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,050
Number of inhabited Houses (mid 1944) according to the rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3, 438
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£55,776
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£240/14/9

### EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births	Total	M.	F.							
Legitimate	... 209	... 104	... 105	}	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	17.2			
Illegitimate	... 16	... 6	... 10							
Still Births										
Legitimate	... 3	... 1	... 2	}	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	17.4			
Illegitimate	... 1	... 1	...							
Deaths	... 132	... 79	... 53		Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	10.1			
Deaths of Infants	...	...	...		Legitimate	...	3			
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	...	...	...		Illegitimate	...	1			
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—										
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...			...	17.7			
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...			...	14.3			
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...			...	62.5			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...			...	24			

### Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers (see above).

- (a) Laboratory Facilities. No change.
- (b) Ambulance Facilities. There is no ambulance owned by the Local Authority. Bridgnorth Borough Ambulance is largely used for all classes of case. The Highley Mining Co. own an ambulance which is garaged at the Alveley pithead for the use of employees.

- (c) Nursing in the Home. No change.
- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. No change.
- (e) Hospitals. There is no hospital in the area. Following the closure of Bridgnorth Isolation Hospital, an arrangement has been made with the Shrewsbury and Atcham Joint Committee for the admission of cases needing isolation to Monkmoor Hospital. Bridgnorth Public Assistance Institution provides accommodation for women patients, but male patients are accommodated in such other institutions as have beds available.

## **Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.**

A report by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Younger, is appended.

### **WATER SUPPLIES.**

ALVELEY. The Public service has continued to be a source of anxiety, due to the inadequacy of the storage tank and occasional breakdowns of the supply. Negotiations were opened with the owner of the spring from which this supply is obtained, with a view to installing a more efficient pumping plant. So far no agreement has been reached. Negotiations were also opened with a view to acquiring the revisionary rights in the Coton Camp borehole. The Military Authority in possession of the camp are not at present prepared to release it.

HIGHLEY.—There was an acute shortage of water affecting a large part of this area, due to drought affecting the spring from which the Highley Mining Co. obtain their supply. It was necessary to transport water from Bridgnorth over a considerable period. To do so, the good offices of the National Fire Service at Bridgnorth were called on, and I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to them for their willing co-operation. A following recurrence of this shortage is probable during any period of drought.

CLAVERLEY AND WORFIELD.—A scheme for a supply of water from the Wolverhampton Corporation Supply at Hilton, to various areas in these parishes has been submitted to this Council and is still under consideration.

TASLEY.—In this parish also there was a shortage of water due to the drought. This was overcome by obtaining a supply from Bridgnorth Borough. This is now pumped up to a tank by the old brickworks pit and supplied direct to the houses by pipes.

Major Waters has been commissioned by the Council to make a detailed survey of the whole district and report to the Council on the need for new and improved supplies.

## **Sec. D. HOUSING.**

Sixteen houses have been built by the Council during the year in groups of four each, at Weston, Monkhopton, Stottesdon and Kinlet. Twelve of these are now occupied, but those at Weston are vacant, as no satisfactory water supply has yet been found.

Ten houses were erected by private enterprise.

## **Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

Slaughtering of animals is still carried out in Wolverhampton and meat distributed through Bridgnorth to this area. Conditions of transport and distribution are reasonably satisfactory.

A list of foods condemned as unfit for human consumption is given in Mr. Younger's report.

## **Sec F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Of 32 civilian cases of Scarlet Fever, the majority occurred at intervals in Highley during the last four months of the year.

Measles and Whooping Cough were less prevalent than in 1943, practically all the cases being civilians. All the cases of Malaria were non-civilians.

There was one civilian case of Diphtheria, the patient being seventeen years old.

## Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year, 1944.

Disease				Total Cases notified	Non-Civilian	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	87	55	7	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	51	44	45	5
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	2	1	2	—
Measles	...	...	...	37	2	4	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	48	—	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	7	7	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	1	1	—

### Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

The high percentage of school children immunised was maintained, but the percentage of children between one and five years might be improved.

	Under 5 years	Between 5 and 15 years	Total
Estimated number of children resident in the area who had undergone a full course of immunisation	665	2140	2805
Estimated number of children resident in the area	1095	2195	—
Percentage of children considered to be immunised	51%	92%	—

Scabies. The number of cases appears to be steadily declining.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 years	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 years	—	5	3	2	1	2	—	—
25 years	5	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
35 years	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 years	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 years and upwards	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	12	7	4	6	3	2	1	—

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. E. DICKSON, M.D., B.S.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

24th August, 1945.





# BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

## SANITARY OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1944.

---

#### COMPLAINTS.

Ninety-three complaints were received during the year of various natures. All were investigated and the necessary action taken to remedy all matters which affected public health.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year repairs have been carried out to four private wells and fourteen public wells in an endeavour to keep up the normal supply and prevent pollution which might be injurious to public health.

#### WATER ANALYSIS.

Five bacteriological and two chemical samples were taken during the year. Two bacteriologicals were satisfactory and three were not satisfactory. One chemical was satisfactory and one not satisfactory.

#### DISINFECTION.

The number of places disinfected during the year after being occupied by patients suffering from infectious disease were thirty-one.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

The following mentioned articles of food were condemned on inspection as being unfit for human consumption :—.

20 x 1 lb. Donald's Stewed Steaks.  
12 Tins Unsweetened Milk.  
2 Tins of Pear Paste.  
68 lbs. of Cheese.  
4 x 11 lbs. Pilchards.  
103 lbs. of Oranges.  
11 lbs. of Lemons.  
3 x 2½ Tins Baked Beans.  
1 x 6 lbs. of Chopped Ham.

#### SWIMMING POOLS.

There are two swimming pools in the district, one at the Nautical William, Alveley, and one at Mrs. Gray's, Swancot, Bridgnorth. Periodical inspections are made of these pools during the year and the necessary cleansing and repairs have been complied with. No complaints have been received during the year.

#### WORKSHOPS AND WORK PLACES.

The annual limewashing and cleansing of these places twice a year have been attended to, although in some cases a little overdue owing to the shortage of labour.

#### HOUSE SCAVENGING.

During the year several offensive accumulations of various kinds have been found in different parts of the district and have been dealt with by the respective owners.

The scavenging scheme for the Council Houses at Highley continues to give satisfaction and no serious complaints have been received.

#### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are approximately 232 Cowsheds and Dairies on the register at the present time, and whenever possible, the attention of the producers and retailers of milk has been called to the provisions of the order in respect to the conditions in which these premises are required to be kept.

Tuberculin Tested Milk Producers	...	...	...	13
Accredited Tested Milk Producers	...	...	...	24
Accredited Tested Milk Producers (Bottled)	...	...	...	3
				—
				40
				—

#### HOUSING.

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects during the year (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 205. Number of inspections made for the purpose, 220.

Yours obediently,

D. C. YOUNGER,  
Cert.M.R.San.I., M.R.S.I.S., M.S.I.A.,  
Certified Food and Meat Inspector.

